

(a) the details of railway lines covered under the proposed railway division at Salem; and

(b) by when the divisional office would be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The details of proposed Railway lines covered under the proposed Railway division at Salem is as under:—

Udagamandalam - Coimbatore North - Erode - Salem-Jolarpettai (excluding), Irugur Podanur (including) - Coimbatore North, Erode - Tiruchchirappalli (excluding), Salem - Karur (New line) - Dindigul (excluding), Salem - Vriddhachalam (excluding) and Salem-Mettur Dam.

(b) It is not possible to indicate any time frame right now.

Security of foreign tourists

†530. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is reconsidering to provide security to the tourists especially the foreign tourists and to increase the speed limit of trains upto 250 kilometres per hour in 2007-08;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the railway sections chosen to run the trains with increased speed limit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However Railway Passengers are provided with Security by Railway Protection Force (RPF) & Government Railway Police (GRP) and the same facility is available to foreign tourists. There is no proposal, as of now, to increase the speed limit of trains upto 250 kilometres per hour.

Attachment of certain stretches of rail routes with Salem Railway Division

531. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[2 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to remove certain stretches of the rail network under the Palakkad railway division to be attached to the proposed new Salem division; and

(b) if so, the present length of rail network under the Palakkad division and the length of the rail route proposed to be removed from this division and what is minimum length of route specified for a division?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Present length of rail network under the Palakkad division is 1132 Kilometres. The length of the rail route proposed to be removed from the Palakkad division is 623 Kilometres. There is no specified minimum length of route for a Division.

Travelling without tickets

†532. SHRI KAMALAKHTAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Ministers and Members of Parliament whose family members and relatives have been caught without ticket while travelling during the last three months;

(b) the details thereof, as on date; and

(c) the details of action taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Some incidents of travelling without ticket/irregular travel by family members and relatives of Ministers and Members of Parliament have come to notice. Such cases are dealt with as per extant provisions of Railways Act, 1989. However, no separate statistics is maintained in this regard.

Research and Development activities in Railways

533. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Research and Development activities in Railways are being

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.